

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5006

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AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PIN, AU, YO

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN FONMIN VIEWS ON STATUS OF AUSTRO-
YUGO RELATIONS

REF: A. VIENNA 1898

B. VIENNA 1777

SUMMARY: FONMIN TOLD ME TODAY (MARCH 5) THAT AUSTRO-YUGO
RELATIONS LIKELY TO BECOME BIT MORE TURBULENT IN WAKE
OF RECENT CROATIAN EXILE GATHERING IN CARINTHIA FOR
FUNERAL AND DECISION OF AUSTRIAN PARTIES TO HOLD "SPECIAL
MINORITY CENSUS" BUT THAT HE WOULD NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE
HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS BY ATTEMPTING TO
RESOLVE SEVERAL LESS CONTENTIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE OF MY FAREWELL CALL MARCH 5, FONMIN BIELKA
GAVE ME BRIEF RUNDOWN ON STATUS OF AUSTRO-YUGO RELATIONS.
HE SAID TWO RECENT AUSTRIAN EVENTS--CROATIAN EXILE FUNERAL
GATHERING IN CARINTHIA (REF A) AND DECISION OF THREE
MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN FAVOR OF HOLDING "SPECIAL
MINORITY CENSUS" IN CARINTHIA IN 1976 (REF B) --
WOULD PROBABLY GIVE RISE TO INCREASED TURBULENCE IN
AUSTRO-YUGO RELATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE.

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2. HE FELT HOWEVER THAT EVEN GREATER ADVERSE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WAS CONTINUING YUGOSLAV DISSATISFACTION WITH AUSTRIAN MEDIA AND IMPORTANCE YUGOSLAVS ATTACHED TO GOA TAKING ACTION AGAINST "TENDENTIOUS REPORTING" ON YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS OF SOME SEGMENTS OF AUSTRIAN PRESS. COROLLARY OF FOREGOING IS INABILITY OF GOA TO CONVINCE GOY, (A) THAT FREEDOM OF PRESS PRECLUDES GOA FROM MUZZLING AUSTRIAN PRESS AND (B) THAT GOA DOES NOT SHARE PRESS VIEWS CONCERNING QUESTIONABLE VIABILITY OF YUGOSLAVIA AFTER DEATH OF TITO. HE OPINED THAT TWO RECENT AUSTRIAN EVENTS OF INTEREST TO YUGOSLAVIA AND GOA STAND ON AUSTRIAN PRESS WILL NO DOUBT ENCOURAGE YUGOSLAV SUSPICIONS AND SENSITIVITIES OF POSSIBLE AUSTRIAN MENTAL RESERVATION, WHICH NON-EXISTENT, CONCERNING FUTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA.

3. BIELKA INDICATED THAT THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WERE IN TURN COMPLICATING HIS EFFORTS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH YUGOSLAVS ON RESOLVING SEVERAL LESS CONTENTIOUS PENDING ISSUES. MFA HAS NOW ACCUMULATED IN VIENNA ALL IDENTIFIABLE CULTURAL PROPERTIES BELONGING TO YUGOSLAVIA AND IS READY TO RETURN THEM TO YUGOSLAVIA, EVEN FOREGOING ANY REQUIREMENT FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS FULL SATISFACTION WITH RESTITUTION EFFORT. IN SPITE OF REPEATED COMMUNICATIONS ON SUBJECT, YUGOSLAVS HAVE HOWEVER IGNORED OFFER TO SEND DELEGATION TO VIENNA FOR PACKING AND MOVEMENT OF OBJECTS. YUGOSLAVS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN EQUALLY NONRESPONSIVE TO AUSTRIAN OFFER TO WORK OUT MODALITIES FOR TRANSFER OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL, AN IRKSOME ISSUE WHICH GOES BACK 50 YEARS.

4. BIELKA INTERPRETS YUGOSLAV RETICENCE AS DUE TO OVERRIDING YUGOSLAV DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH REQUIRE AT THIS JUNCTURE CONTINUING IMPASSE IN RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA. FONMIN SAID HE WAS NEVERTHELESS DETERMINED TO KEEP YUGOSLAVS ACTIVELY ENGAGED ON ISSUES AND EXPECTS TO CALL IN YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SHORTLY FOR ANOTHER DISCUSSION ON BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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5. FOREGOING APPROVED BY AMBASSADOR HUMES PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE VIENNA TODAY. MOWINCKEL

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